

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04132 281716Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5606
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UR XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON M.E.

1. PRIOR TO GROMYKO'S MARCH 28 LUNCHEON FOR SECRETARY,
FSO JOHN GLASSMAN HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS M.E. WITH
MFA N.E. COUNTRIES DEPT CHIEF, M. D. SYTENKO. DURING
DISCUSSION SYTENKO VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING POINTS:

--VISIT OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD IS NOT CERTAIN,
ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HAVE "NO OBJECTIONS" TO VISIT AND WOULD
LIKE HIM TO COME;

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-- VAAX GAVE NO FIXED VIEWS ON FORM OF PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA. SOVIETS DID NOT OPPOSE
PLO REPRESENTATION IN JORDANIAN DELEGATION OR ANY
OTHER SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO PLO;

--PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) MEETING
IN CAIRO WAS MUCH MORE MODERATE THAN LAST PREVIOUS

SESSION. FLEXIBILITY WAS SHOWN ON QUESTIONS OF
PALESTINIAN STATE AND PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE.
COMMENT: SYTENKO PRESUMABLY MEANT PNC HAD NOT CLOSED
ANY DOORS TO GENEVA. END COMMENT. MOST IMPORTANT
THING WAS THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP WAS NOW STABILIZED
AND ACCEPTED BY ALL GROUPS (EXCEPT "SMALL" GROUP AROUND
HABASH). ARAFAT ALSO HAD DEMONSTRATED BASE OF SUPPORT
ON WEST BANK. SOVIETS WERE FULLY SATISFIED WITH ARAFAT
AND DID NOT PREFER MORE MARXIST ORIENTED FIGURE LIKE
HAWATIMAH;

--SOVIETS HAD TRIED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS
WITH SAUDI ARABIA, BUT HAD FAILED. SOVIETS FELT THEY
HAD REASON TO CRITICIZE SAUDIS WHO WERE PURSUING "VERY
HOSTILE POLICY";

--SADAT'S ONGOING ATTACKS ON SOVIET UNION WERE
MORE THAN "CRITICISM." CRITICISM IMPLIED THAT THERE
WAS SOME BASIS IN FACT FOR ACCUSATIONS MADE. SOVIET
UNION HAD FULFILLED ALL ARMS SUPPLY AGREEMENTS WITH
EGYPT INCLUDING THOSE CONCLUDED AT TIME OF 1973 WAR.
SYTENKO ADDED THAT, "YOU AMERICANS MUST BE HAPPY WITH
SADAT'S ATTACKS."
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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